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SUBJECT: CZECHS SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNANCE

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(SBU) Pol-Econ Counselor discussed reftel points August 10 with Gabriela Dlouha, the new Director of the new Czech MFA Department of Human Rights and Transformation Policy (which combines the old Human Rights Department and the Office for Transformation Cooperation). Dlouha expressed strong support for the Partnership for Democratic Governance's objectives, and said the Czech Republic would become a founding member. Addressing the PDG's mission, Dlouha noted the benefit of making democracy an element of development policy. That said, Dlouha made clear that the Czechs will not be in a position to actively support the PDG. The limited resources of the Czech MFA devoted to both development assistance and democracy promotion are already fully tapped, and the Ministry has neither the funds nor personnel required to permit a substantial commitment to the PDG. Dlouha also noted that the Czechs continue to develop and expand their assistance efforts, and have set a target date of 2010 to join the Development Assistance Committee.
GRABER